136 "meset", small white termite which eats wood.

Flying beetles: "enzezza" (onomatopoetic) resembled big bee, eats holes into wooden beams of houses, does not live in colonies. It makes honey which is despised as "wild" by the Amhara, but zar spirits are believed fond of it, especially in the bush. A greenish variety, "tenzizza", the cockchafer, makes no honey, and is eaten by chickens.

[776 237]

Scorpion ("gint"), though mainly a lowland animal, is found also in river valleys on the plateau. It is considered very poisonous especially to cows who swallow it while grazing and are said to die from it. Brown, finger-length, it hides under rocks. Its sting must be "pulled from the wound", in Amhara practice.

[752]

Wild rodents abound in rural areas, and rats which harbor fleas are common along trade routes. They are also a danger to crops, and one of the reasons why threshed grain is stored in the living-hut, in huge, mud-hardened grain bins.

[241 251]

13 The ecological provinces of Ethiopia can be summarized as follows:

(1) Alpine, high-plateau type.

(2) Forests rich in fauna, and mountain savanna.

(3) Desert or near-desert savanna in lowlands, with belts of tropical forest along the rivers.

231 556 Domestication of animals, as mentioned before, is very old in Ethiopia. To this day, the wealth even of long-settled Amhara peasants is judged according to the number of

1: Messing E-5 (1953-1954)1957 MP5 Amhara MP5
Prehistoric Ethiopia MP4

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13 Since all other production, apart from skins and gold, was negligible by comparison, the ecology of Ethiopia can be characterized as predominantly agricultural and pastoral.

3. History

P
74 ### A. Prehistory to 500 B.C.; early trade routes; "iron age" in Ethiopia; colonization.

Very little reliable data is available about the prehistory of Ethiopia, since archeological excavations were prohibited until recently. Some prehistory inferences have already been drawn in this study from the geographic position, topography, and linguistic groupings in Ethiopia in historic times.

In reconstructing what is known of Ethiopian prehistory and what tentatively can be inferred and projected backward from earliest historic sources, three procedures can be followed: Interpretation of surface archeological sites; following ancient trade routes; linguistic analysis.

Rock paintings, particularly common on the eastern high plateau of Ethiopia, running from north to south, resemble those found in Lybia.[13] Other rock paintings (some of which were photographed by the author of this study), repeatedly show cattle without humps. This would indicate an early Hamitic population of cattle breeders. Moreover, other rock paintings indicate that the breeders of humped cattle entered via the Bab el Mandeb from Yemen.[14]

13. Barton, G. A. : Hamitic and Semitic Origins. 1934
14. Rhotert, Hans: Lybische Felsbilder. 1952